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THE FORTNIGHT.

MONDAY, 8TH OCTOBER.

IT is said that work on the railway in the Khojak Pass is still being pushed on, and large quantities of railway material are stored there. The Khojak tunnel will, however, not be finished before January 1890. The terminus on the Candahar side is Chaman, and beyond this point on the foot of the Khojak no surveys have been made.

SIR CHARLES AND LADY DILKE, says *Truth*, are to leave Kurrachee with the Commander-in-Chief in India for Quetta on November 6, reaching Quetta on the 8th, when they will visit the new frontier fortifications and the Khojak Tunnel. From Quetta, Lady Dilke will return by rail, and go round to join Lady Roberts at Simla, whilst the remainder of the party will ride across the mountains to Dehra Ghazi Khan, reaching there about the 21st. Thence they travel by rail to Peshawur. They will then ride to Lundi Kotal through the Khyber Pass, and about the 29th they will leave Peshawar for Hotee Murdan, Nowshera, and the Attock positions ; and, having meanwhile been joined by the ladies of the party, they go on to Rawul Pindi, where a large force will be assembled. The whole party will leave Rawul Pindee on the return journey to the South-East at the latest on December 10.

THE statements of Financial Statistics of State Railways for the year 1887, published in the *Gazette of India* of October 6th, are an interesting study to those who watch the development of railway communications in this country. It appears that the total amount expended by the State on its railway (exclusive of the guaranteed lines) has been close on 73 millions sterling. This is about equal to the earnings last year of all the railways in the United Kingdom. The actual position of the Indian Government with regard to State lines now appears to be as follows : The net receipts (*i e*, the amount by which the gross receipts exceed the working expenses) from the commencement of operations to the end of 1887 amount to nearly 13 millions ; while the interest and other charges are nearly 28½ millions. The net charge to the State is, therefore, 15½ millions, all of which, except three millions, has been incurred on the North-Western Railway, including frontier lines. As there were 694 miles of lines under construction at the end of the year, and upwards of 1,000 miles had been brought into operation during the year, it follows that a large amount of capital had been expended on which no return could be hoped for at present, as newly opened lines do not as a rule pay even their working expenses for the first year or two. Taking this into consideration it may be concluded that the present position of the State Railways is eminently satisfactory, and it is not too much to anticipate that in three or four years' time all interest charges will be cleared off, except those of the N. W. Railway which will be dealt with specially later on.

THE Moscow merchants are, according to a St. Petersburg correspondent, evidently much disturbed by the efforts of Sir Drummond-Wolff to extend British trade with Persia. The question is being a good deal discussed by the Russian newspapers, and one of the number declares that the English merchants in Persia are unfairly competing with Moscow firms by imitating the goods of well-known Moscow houses, and selling them as Russian. It is this no doubt that has caused the present jealousy of the Russian merchants, and has given rise to all kinds of absurd reports.

TUESDAY, 9TH OCTOBER.

A REPORT is gaining ground in Brussels that the King of Greece will shortly transfer the government to the Crown Prince and retire to his estates in Denmark.

THE Parnell Defence Fund has reached three thousand pounds. O'Donovan Rossa denounces the subscribers as worse than slaves, since Mr. Parnell appeared to feel that his character was grievously assailed, because he was accused of having something to do with the killing of Lord Cavendish and Mr. Burke.

AUSTRALIA is again cut off from all communication by telegraph with the rest of the world, the cables between Banjowangee and Port Darwin being interrupted. This will cause the Australians to press on the construction of the alternative line to cross the Pacific Ocean, which they have already proposed.

IT is now definitely settled that Lord Lansdowne will sail from Brindisi on November 19 by the P. and O. Company's steamer *Ganges*. He will land at Bombay, and take over the Government in Calcutta from Lord Dufferin about December 10. Lord Lansdowne, who has returned to England from visiting his Irish estates, was to go to Balmoral early this month, and there "kiss hands" on appointment. It is probable that he will spend some time at Balmoral.

DISTRESS in Chandbally in the District of Balasore seems to have assumed 'an acute form. All the crops in Thannas Basudebpore, Chandbally and Bhelarai having been completely submerged by the late rains, great scarcity of food prevails there. A seer of rice is being sold at two annas, or, in other words, a maund of rice costs Rs. 5. Many famine-stricken people have left their homes and homesteads, leaving their wives and children behind them in quest of food. The District Magistrate of Balasore has inspected these places, and sent a report thereon. Apprehending that loss of time would be suicidal in this momentous matter, he requested the local Zemindar, Babu Baikantha Nath Dey, to call a public meeting to afford relief to the needy people, and at that meeting Rs. 418 were raised for the purpose. Such is the condition of the people of Balasore, and we hope the Bengal Government will lose no time to afford them adequate relief.'

THIRTEEN thousand rupees have been subscribed in aid of founding the Punjab Chiefs' College at Lahore. Cashmere and Patiala have each given five thousand rupees. Sir James Lyall has contributed one thousand rupees.

THE Paris *Figaro* publishes a paragraph, in which it is stated that a method of steering balloons has at length been discovered by Commandant Lenard. A balloon is in course of construction at Meudon, which will prove the reality of this discovery. This balloon will be furnished with a new motor, 500 kilogrammes in weight of 50 horse power, which, it is anticipated, will be capable of producing a speed of 100 kilometres (upwards of sixty miles) an hour. The balloon will thus be navigable in any direction and in any weather, except when it is actually blowing a gale.

SENATOR SHERMAN has opposed the policy of retaliation, and advocates political commercial union between Canada and America, each preserving her local autonomy. The Foreign Committee of the State have referred the question of relation to a sub-Comittee. The State is not disposed to favour anything like hasty action in the matter.

WEDNESDAY, 10TH OCTOBER.

LIEUTENANT YOUNGHUSBAND, of the Punjab Frontier Force, in his lecture at Simla the other day on the Chinese Army, from his experience during his recent adventurous journey from Peking to Cashmere, spoke highly of the capacity of the Chinese soldier, his aptitude for learning drill, and his power of fighting on the defensive ; but the officers were not good. He referred to the conquest of Eastern Turkistan and the Tonquin war as proving the pertinacity with which China carries on her military operations. Lieutenant Younghusband found Russian cotton goods for sale in all the towns he visited. The traders were generally Chinamen, but were in some cases Russian subjects from Turkistan, Russian goods were brought into Leh, Ladakh, and Cashmere, which were exceedingly good, and suited the inhabitants.

THE British Indians settled along the Zanzibar coast are great losers by the stoppage of trade there owing to the rising of Natives. It is reported that the German Squadron has been ordered to the Zanzibar coast.

THE Bombay Legislative Council, on Saturday last, passed the Bill constituting a Port Trust for Aden. The Council also passed the Bill amending the Bombay Municipal Act in accordance with the wishes of the Government of India.

THE Madras Board of Revenue has requested Dr. Thurnton, the Superintendent of the Madras Museum, now on leave in England, to visit on its behalf the several electrical establishments in Europe in view to his selecting for use at the various pearl fisheries in India an electric globe light that would burn in 20 fathoms of water. The want of such an appliance has long been felt, and the work at the pearl fisheries at present has to be confined to pearl banks situated in less than twenty fathoms of water.

AN information has been published about the new swimming dress that was introduced at the last naval manœuvres before Kiel. The dress, we are told, is like a diver's, made of India-rubber, and double. On the chest is a valve through which air is blown into the interior of the dress, which covers the whole body and leaves only the face bare. The swimmer wears shoes with leaden soles to secure his equillibrium, and for his defence a long knife which is fastened to the girdle. The swimmers are employed for the blowing up of mines and hostile craft, and are provided with an explosive box which they have to fasten to the mine or craft. Before the explosion ensues they are out of the reach of danger.

THURSDAY, 11TH OCTOBER.

WE hear that a scheme is now under preparation for giving Government aid to Sanskrit *tols* or indigenous Sanskrit schools throughout Bengal.

A RESOLUTION has been published in the Home Department regarding Indian lepers, which says that "the possibility of the State taking a more direct part in the prevention or treatment of leprosy in India has recently been under the consideration of Government; and with a view of ascertaining precisely the facts regarding the number of persons known to be affected with leprosy who seek relief at various leper asylums, the local Governments were requested to furnish full information on the subject. In 1881 there were 131,618 lepers according to the census, of whom 98,982 were males and the remainder females ; but these figures, in the opinion of the Governor-General in Council, do not afford the true measure of the extent of the disease. The reports from the local Governments show that the number of lepers who come under organised relief is only about one per cent of the number known to exist in the country. The majority of lepers prefer being objects of local charity, and resent even the small amount of restraint to which they are liable in the institutions maintained for their treatment. Medical science has no cure for leprosy, and no measures could effectually stamp out the disease short of absolute segregation of sexes, and confinement for life of all those affected by it. Such a measure would be repugnant to public opinion, and perfectly impracticable. It is impossible for Government to do more than encourage the grant of medical relief in voluntary hospitals and asylums, and the necessity of segregating the sexes should be invariably kept in view."

THE Government of India have resolved to insist on the necessity of a strict system of selection for the superior posts of the Public Works Department. The principle has been adopted—(1) that separate rosters of men selected or rejected for the Superintending Engineer class shall be prepared and maintained by local Governments and Administrations; and (2) that a further selection shall be made by the Government of India from these rosters. This system will come into force from January 1, the principle of selection being carried out with utmost strictness in regard to promoting officers to the rank of Superintending and Chief Engineers and posts of corresponding rank.

A MADRAS contemporary hears that the Rajah of Cochin intends forming an experimental Council of State. "It is not to be a purely legislative one, or purely executive. It is indended to deal with matters of general interest to the State. We hear that all that is proposed is that the Dewan may be asked to summon all the heads of departments to the capital (Ernaculam) not less than once a year, and the budget for the year to be framed

in consultation with them. Of course, the Dewan will not be imperatively bound by the opinion of his Council; but any deviation from it will be on his own responsibility."

FRIDAY, 12TH OCTOBER.

A Committee will shortly assemble to examine generally into the working of the whole system of Public Works accounts throughout India. Mr. R. G. Macdonald will be President, and Colonel Harvey, Punjab, and Mr. R. A. Cordner, Executive Engineer, N. W. P., members. The Committee will be peripatetic and each Local Government will depute an officer to assist in the inquiry as its province is visited.

THE Calicut paper hears that Mr. Kunjen Menon, who was lately convicted at Tellicherry of bribery, and whose appeal to the High Court in the first case was successful, "intends appealing to the Privy Council against the decision of the High Court in the second case."

IT is expected that the report of the Currency Commission will be issued in the second week of November.

ANOTHER Marwari sued Mr. Arthur Crawford in the Bombay High Court. In this instance the action was for the recovery of Rs. 4,000 with interest at two per cent per month from March last. As there was no appearance for the defendant the case was adjourned.

THE Secretary of State has telegraphed out his approval of the Railway Bill, with an intimation that a despatch on the measure is on its way to this country. Colonel Conway-Gordon will not therefore, as originally intended, take a trip to America to study the railway systems there. His presence is of course needed in India in connection with the action that may be taken on Viscount Cross's despatch.

AN official report by Prince Bismarck has been published recommending the prosecution of the parties responsible for the publication of the alleged diary of the late Emperor Frederick. He disputes the authenticity of the diary in its present form, but produces an impression that the writer of the report is convinced of its substantial authencity, though denying its accuracy. The report contains several highly important statements relative to the events immediately preceding the late war. For instance, referring to the statement in the diary that the King expressed no essential objection to mobilisation, Prince Bismarck says that the King believed the Crown Prince knew he believed he could still preserve the peace, and during the journey from Brandenberg to Berlin he turned a deaf ear to his (Bismarck's) advocacy of mobilisation, but after M. Olivier's speech the King resolved on mobilisation *proprio motu* without further persuasion—whereon, the Crown Prince being already in accord, Prince Bismarck rendered further vacillation impossible by announcing the Royal resolution to the public. Referring to the statement in the diary that the Crown Prince expressed his belief that war would be followed by a rapid cessation owing to the loss in battles and bloodshed, Prince Bismarck says that, on the contrary, the Crown Prince shared the general conviction that the war would prove the commencement of a long series of conflicts. Prince Bismarck further denies that any difference occured at Versailles between himself and the Crown Prince relative to the future constitution of Germany. He also emphatically denies the statement in the diary that the Crown Prince intended to coerce the German allies by force if necessary. According to an official communique in the *National Zeitung* the German Government suspects that the publication of the diary is traceable to an English source. Prince Bismarck's report further states that the more confidential political discussions preceding the war were kept secret from the Crown Prince, lest disclosures should be made to the English Court, which was full of French sympathies.

SATURDAY, 13TH OCTOBER.

HER MAJESTY the Queen-Empress has been graciously pleased to honour their Highnesses the Maharajah and Maharani of Cooch Behar by becoming Godmother to their infant son. The child is to bear the name of Victor by express desire of the Queen.

THE Burmese dakait appears to have many devices for procuring ammunition. It has now been discovered that there has, for some time, been a large increase in the importation of Chinese crackers, and also generally in the trade in fireworks. The wily dakait does not waste these crackers and fireworks in tamashas for his own or his neighbour's amusement, but carefully extracts the powder and uses it for the purposes of his plundering expeditions. The result has been that the provisions of the Indian Explosives Act are to be strictly enforced throughout the whole of Burma, which will keep the transport of fireworks under proper restrictions.

Indian Engineering makes some severe strictures on the extravagance of the Railway departments in regard to their mania for returns and signatures At the foot of the 'contingent bill' on some of the Railways there is a form of certificate given as to payments for such petty things as service postage labels, State telegrams, and so on, and yet the bills of all officers are collected by the heads of departments, countersigned by them, and sent together with their own, to be again countersigned by the Manager of the Railway, and so to the Examiner of Accounts. There is thus a deal of wastage of time in multiplying unnecessary documents and signatures, and a manager has more important work to attend to than countersign voluminous Contingent Bills which have been really paid and have their vouchers attached.

THE Emperor William arrived at Rome on the 11th instant. The meeting between his Imperial Majesty and King Humbert was of the most cordial nature. The scene at the railway station and along the route to the Quirinal was most brilliant Great preparations had been made to render the pageant an imposing one. His Imperial Majesty received a perfect ovation from the enormous crowds lining the streets, and was enthusiastically cheered.

MONDAY, 15TH OCTOBER.

A GREAT strike of colliers is impending in Yorkshire. Many thousands of them have demanded an increase of wages.

THE latest news from Suakin states that the place is rapidly tranquillizing, and the number of the rebels besieging the town is diminishing.

THE *Bengalee* learns that the Viceroy has called for the papers connected with the case of Gereni, an Assamese girl, who was examined under the order of Mr. Melitus. The case is analogous to that of Boodhia.

AT a meeting of the Viceregal Council held on Friday last, the Bill to supplement certain provisions of the Bombay and Calcutta Municipal Acts was passed. The Hon'ble Mr. Scoble then moved for leave to introduce a Bill to make further provision for the administration of the estate of the late King of Oudh. The object of the Bill was to facilitate, through the Governor-General's Agent, the realisation and distribution of the late King's property; also to enable the Agent to execute conveyances of property, institute suits, etc. It was expected that the administration of the estate would take some time.

INFORMATION has been received that the Ruler of Chitral had asked Umra Khan, the Khan of Jundol, to discontinue fighting, as, judging from the results of the last attack, it is likely to cause excessive bloodshed of the Mahamedans on both sides. He further expressed his willingness to come to Jundol personally, if needed, to establish friendly relations between Umra Khan and the Khan of Dir: and it is believed that he sent a similar letter to Sharif Khan suggesting peace. Umra Khan, however, has, it appears, rejected the proposal of a compromise, on the ground that the Khan of Dir had once before, in the presence of the ruler of Chitral, signed a similar treaty which he subsequently violated, and which subjected both the ruler of Chitral and Umra Khan to considerable loss and annoyance. Therefore the latter thinks it necessary to continue the war, with the object of punishing the Khan of Dir for his teacherous and unprovoked aggression.

TUESDAY, 16TH OCTOBER.

THE Madras Government has relinquished the idea of appointing Honorary Magistrates in Madras city. The invitations to gentlemen to take up appointments were issued with a liberality that was remarkable, but the response was not encouraging.

THE Government of Bengal has decided to carry out a series of experiments in M. Pasteur's system of inoculation for prevention of cattle-diseases. The operations are to be conducted under the supervision of Mr. N. N. Banerjee, B. A., M. R. A. C., F. H. A. S,, who arrived in Calcutta last week after a special course of training in the system of cattle inoculation at M. Pasteur's Institute in Paris. Mr. Banerjee, having graduated in the Calcutta University, was sent by the Government of Bengal as a Government scholar to the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester, where, having studied for two years and a term, he took his diploma of membership, and also became a Fellow of the Highland Agricultural Society of Edinburgh and a member of the Royal Agricultural Society of Dublin. He then joined the Middle Temple, and was called to the Bar last December. Being immediately after deputed by the Government to study M. Pasteur's system of inoculation at Paris, he completed his studies there, and having obtained a certificate of qualification from the Director of the Institute, Mr. Banerjee has now returned to India after three and-a-half years' absence, bringing out with him some vaccine liquid entrusted to him by the Secretary of State for India, and likewise certain apparatus and appliances which he was desired to procure before leaving for India.

MR. BADSHAH, the Postmaster-General, N W P, has introduced an innovation into the Naini Tal Post Office in the persons of two young women assistants. If we are not mistaken, this is the first experiment of the kind tried in the North-West, if not in India.

THE Registrarship of the Punjab University is about to change hands once again, the new incumbent being Dr. Stein, at present Principal of the Oriental College at Lahore. Mr. Bell will make over charge in anticipation of the formal sanction of the Senate.

A DECREE has been issued by the King of Italy, acting on the recommendation of the Minister of Public Instruction, regulating the manner in which Italy proposes to celebrate the fourth centennial of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus. This will consist mainly in the publication of the collected works of the great navigator, and of all the documents and charts which will throw any light upon his life and voyages. This will be accompanied by a biography of the works published in Italy on Columbus and the discovery of America from the earliest period down to the present time. The head of the royal commission charged with the preparation of this edition is Signor Cesare Correnti president of the Italian Historical Institute. Various editors have published portions of the writings of Columbus, but no one has yet collected all his writings into a single edition, though an index to them was published in 1864.

WEDNESDAY, 17TH OCTOBER.

A CORRESPONDENT with the Sikkim Field Force sings the praises of the Raja of Sikkim's palace on the right bank of the Mochu. 'A more beautiful site,' he writes, 'it would be difficult to imagine, and certainly the Prince shows a good deal of sense in choosing such a delightful corner of the earth for his winter quarters. His house is high and handsome in its way; all round the lower storey are rows of prayer-wheels for the benefit of the devoutly minded and inside a good deal of paint and dirt are mixed up in the decorations. Here we saw the Raja's mother, and the old lady presented a most interesting spectacle to us. Her head-dress alone was a piece of furniture, and her quaint dress and surroundings made her an object of much interest to us all. After going round the house and looking into everything we could, we marched away on our return journey, quite satisfied that we had seen the nicest corner of India.'

THE four little sons of the German Emperor are so persistently imbued with the military element that even their games are martial. The tiny fellows are spending their holidays at Castle Oberhof, in Thuringia, and in a corner of the grounds is a miniature fort with two cannons and a bivouac. In the morning the three eldest princes appear in soldier garb, the Crown Prince—aged six—playing the drum, while his brothers march stiffly by, gun on shoulder. Three soldiers accompany them and show the children how to storm the fort, to go through military exercises, and the routine of camp life. The youngest of the quartette looks on from his governess's side, and wears a tiny helmet with his white frock.

A STARTLING advance in surgical science is claimed to have been made by Dr. Maximilian Klein, a German military surgeon. The particulars are given by the professional journal *Memorabilieu*. A man accidentally cut off his left great toe in the middle of the first joint. The severed piece remained hanging to the foot, but the connecting skin was scarcely thicker than a thread; Dr. Klein sewed on the fragment, dressed it with iodoform, and had the satisfaction, in twenty-two days, of finding the wound healed, and the toe perfectly sound and flexible. Encouraged by the unexpected result in this case, Dr. Klein was induced to apply the same treatment again. A recruit, in order to disable himself and so escape from military service, deliberately cut his fore-finger with an axe at the second joint. The finger end was lost, and could not be found until

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half-an-hour had elapsed. It was then cold, and blue. Nevertheless Dr. Klein sewed it to the stump, and applied a bandage of iodoform gauze. As early as the second day it was evident that circulation had been partially re-established throughout the finger; and in six weeks the man had not only left hospital but was doing the very rifle drill which he had hoped to shirk.

THURSDAY, 18TH OCTOBER.

THE Government of India have chosen, as successor to the late Sir Ganpat Rao as President of the Council of Gwalior, Bapu Saheb Jadu, the senior Sirdar of the State, and the grandfather of the young Maharajah Scindia. The mother of the Chief is Bapu Saheb's daughter, and is to be the Regent of Gwalior during her son's minority.

THE *Statesman* says :—"We understand that owing to pressure of official business, Lord Dufferin has abandoned his contemplated visit to Darjiling in November. Lord Dufferin will remain in Calcutta until the 10th of December, and will then go overland to Bombay, leaving that port on the 14th, by the P. and O. steamer *Kaiser-Hind* for Brindisi *en route* to Rome."

IN addition to Sir Charles and Lady Dilke, Lord and Lady Herschell, Mr. Vanderbilt, Lord and Lady Jersey, Sir Samuel Baker, and a whole host of Austrian and German Princes and Barons are expected in India in this cold weather. Calcutta will also be visited in December by a large number of Indian Princes, who are coming down to bid farewell to Lord Dufferin, and to welcome the new Viceroy.

A CHANGE in the hours for the receipt of regis tered letters and parcels, etc. in all the Post Offices in Bengal and Behar has been carried out by the Postal authorities, it having been settled that regis ered letters, parcels, applications for money-orders, etc., will be received at any time between 8 A. M. and 5 P. M, daily, instead of from noon to 4 P. M. as heretofore.

AT a recent session of the French Academy of Sciences, Mr. Daubree presented an interesting note on the production of emeralds. These learned chemists have succeeded in producing very beautiful crystals of emerald by fusing silicalumina, and glucina (with traces of oxide of chromium) with acid molybdate of lithia. The materials were heated to a temperature of from 600 deg to 700 deg for fifteen days. There were obtained 15 grammes of small crystals of about a killometre having all the mineralogical and physical characters of the natural emerald. The longer the operation is continued, the larger the crystals become.

FRIDAY 19TH OCTOBER.

IT is no doubt very satisfactory to learn from the Hyderabad papers that cordial relations have been established between His Highness the Nizam and Sir Salar Jung Bahadur, K. C. I. E. On Wednesday last, the 10th instant, the Prince wrote a polite letter to the ex-Minister inviting him to breakfast with him on Thursday morning at 10 o'clock. Sir Salar Jung duly responded to the call.

IN Europe, Germany edits about 5,500 periodical newspapers among which 800 are Dailies. The *Berliner Tageblatt* has the largest circulation, it strikes off 55,000 copies. England comes next, having 4000 periodicals of which 800 are Dailies. The *Telegraph* has a circulation of 250,000, the *Standard*, 242,000, the *Daily News*, 100,000, and the *Times*, 100,000 copies. France has the same number of journals as England, of which 1,586 appear in Paris and 2,506 in the Provinces. Of this number 360 are Dailies. Italy holds the fourth rank. It possesses 1,400 journals. 1,200 journals appear in Austro-Hungary of which 150 are Dailies. They count in Spain about 850 periodical newspapers of which a third are political journals. Russia possesses more than 800 journals. The United States possess 12,500 journals of which 1,000 are Dailies.

Now that it is settled that Colonel Marshall leaves Hyderabad for good, speculation is rife, says the *Deccan Standard*, as to his probable successor. There will of course be no more an Adviser and Secretary to His Highness, but it is presumed the Nizam will require a Private Secretary. "It is generally thought that Nawab Imad-ud-dowlah Bahadoor (Syed Hussein Bilgrami) who held the situation before he was supplanted by Colonel Marshall, will be again asked to take up his old duties; and as no officer in His Highness's service, or for the matter of that outside of it, can be found more capable, it will not be surprising if His Excellency himself requested the Nawab to take up the post. Nawab Mohsin-ul Mulk has been pretty freely spoken of as Colonel Marshall's successor, but this we may safely attribute to the sages of Char-Minar. We should think that Nawab Intisar Jung will rather profit by the advice given him by his medical advisers, and not burden himself with the heavy duties of the Political Secretariat, for which perhaps the Nizam's delegate to England is the only officer suited."

SATURDAY 20TH OCTOBER.

SOME electrical experiments were tried on the head of a man after he had been guillotined a few days ago. The operator was M. Poulet, doctor of the 2nd Infantry. The doctor commenced operations five minutes after the decapitation. He began first by placing two magnetic poles on the neck, the face, near the eyes, and above and below the lips. The effect produced was horrible. The face lying in a pool of blood, made weired grimaces, eye-burrows knit, the nose bent, the eyelids lowered, and then the mouth gave a ghastly grin. The muscles, as they contracted, produced on the face an appearance of uncontrollable laughter, although it had always with it a look of suffering and supplication. Just when the head was being put in the coffin along with the body, the face was still moving and the eyes had look of clearness. From the above experiments, it seems that the conscience survives the execution for some time after.

THE Consistorial Court at Belgrade appointed for the trial of King Milan's petition for a divorce has, at the request of the King, ajdourned the proceedings for a period of three months. The Servian *Official Gazette* publishes a decree forbidding the celebration, as a national holiday, of the anniversary of Queen Nathalie's "name day." Simultaneously the clergy of the whole country are directed by a circular of the Ecclesiastical Minister, to omit the usual prayers for the Queen, and also the special service ordained for the anniversary. The Vienna correspondent of the *Times* is informed that King Milan's reason for adjourning the trial of his divorce petition was, that the Judges of the Consistorial Court plainly intimated that they could not resist Queen Nathalie's appeal to be heard in person by the Court. The text of Queen Nathalie's defence in King Milan's divorce proceedings has been published. The Queen gives a general denial to the King's charges, and asserts that she has only striven for the King's good; that although leading an unhappy life she had done her duty; and that she commits her cause to God with the declaration that there are no just grounds for a divorce. The whole plan of the defence is based on an avoidance on the Queen's part of any plea which could place her in the position of a counter-petitioner. She insists on her right to plead in person before the Court.

THE French Chamber of Deputies re-opened on the 15th instant. M. Floquet submitted his Revision Bill which proposes to give a fixed duration for the Ministries terminable only on direct impeachment. One-third of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies will retire every two years, and thus the dissolution of the Chamber will be rendered unnecessary. The Bill also proposes to curtail the power of the Senate in regard to legislative and financial measures.

THE London correspondent of the *Liverpool Daily Post*, referring to the rumour that an increased allowance will be asked for on behalf of the Prince of Wales and his family during the autumn session, points out that the Queen has an annuity drawn from the Consolidated Fund of £385,000, which is specially allotted to meet those expenses connected with her high position, the partial weight of which has been transferred to the Heir-Apparent. But (continues the correspondent) that is only a portion of the enormous income which good fortune and frugal habits have placed at the disposal of the head of the Royal family. The new Domesday Book discloses the fact that the Queen's private estates extend over 37,372 acres, the annual rental, even at the lately depreciated prices, being £20,733. Some years ago her Majesty, acting under the advice of Lord Sydney, purchased Claremont for the sum of £78,000, estimated at the time as being a little over half its market value. The Queen also possesses property at Coburg, and the Villa Hohenlohe at Baden. As to personal property, there was the bequest of a million left to her Majesty by Sir James Camden Neild. This will was proved in 1852, and the bequest must now have reached magnificent proportions. Then there was the property left by the Prince Consort, estimated to have reached nearly £600,000, but as this will was never proved, the exact amount is not known.

THE Rajah of Jhind has subscribed Rs. 2,5000 towards the Aitchison College, Lahore, and the Rajah of Farridkot, Rs. 1,000.

The Hindoo Patriot

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1888.

FORECASTING A MILLENNIUM.

OUR friends of Duckland are suffering from, what a ganja-smoker used in his own way to call, "gentleman's child, much bashful." They are highly respectable "gentleman's child," but "much bashful," and they cannot muster courage to ask for what they really want. Having designed for their motto the proud legend *urbs prima in Indis*, having got their coat-of-arms with the full complement of lions in the crests and supporters registered at the Herald's College, which, rumour has it, once demurred to the supporters as inadmissible without a royal patent, and having lorded it over every body as the "first city in India," they now bashfully halt halfway and bend the knee for an "Honorable" or "worshipful." It sounds very like the climax of bathos. Why, that makes the head officer of *urbs prima in Indis* to be no more than Mr. Briefless in the High Court, or the beak at a Police Court. We know not whether it is *en regle* or not, but the practice in Bengal is to address every ragged Sub-judge or Munsiff as "honorable." Is *urbs prima in Indis* no better than a village Munsiffy? No, no, this will never do. Like a blooming bride our friends are, we repeat, "much bashful." They should do away with such timidity. The most appropriate address in their case is "my Lord," and they would be unjust to themselves and the Corporation they represent if they would content themselves with anything less. Their battle-cry should be "the whole hog or nothing at all," and they should fight to the very knife for it. There was a time, even at the end of the last century, when Calcutta, Madras and Bombay had each a "Mayor and a complement of Aldermen, and now that we have an *urbs prima in Indis* it would be quite absurd to be satisfied with a common-place "Honorable."

Our friends are equally at fault in their idea about a badge and a chain of office. A badge and a chain without an appropriate robe of office would be a marriage without a bride. Fancy the idea of Captain Scott or Mr. Sayani clapping the "honorable" badge and chain on an alpaca or tweed suit! Could desecration any further go? It would quite rend asunder the eternal fitness of things. We should certainly have a robe or mantle of scarlet silk velvet with an edging of three-inch-broad gold lace, sundry tassels, and a flowing train and a couple of little pages in uniform to carry the same. The natural fitness of things absolutely requires these, and it would amount to a crime if modesty should be allowed to stand in the way of so urgent and appropriate a reform. As for the cost of the chain, it is a small matter and there can be no difficulty about it; but we have a misgiving. A Calcutta Babu, once failing to get any trinket from Government, obtained from Hamilton & Co. a star of brilliants costing several thousand pounds and proudly affixed it on his left breast. He also caused the bauble to be painted on his portrait, so that his children's children and all posterity may admire it. But it served only to make him an object of ridicule. People smiled a smile of contempt when they saw the jewel on his breast, or on his portrait. It had none of the ennobling effect of the five-rayed Star of India, plain silver though it be. Even such would be the case with the gold chain and badge that is in contemplation if it be privately got at a shop. The proper plan would be to ask the Government to award the chain and badge as it does in the case of Grand Commanders of the Star of India. They need not cost much; for the sake of economy, they can be made in silver or brass; and even in gold, whatever may be the cost the same may be recovered manyfold in the way of fees, as in the case of patents of nobility or of *Nazarana* for Indian titles.

And while on the subject we have to throw out another suggestion. The Mayors and Aldermen of old had the power of administering correctional caning to recusant Darkies. Any dissatisfied European master in the last century could send a chit to the nearest Mayor or Alder-

man in Calcutta to give to the bearer thereof a dozen lashes or so for some fault or other, and the same would for certain be given without a trial. A high-born noble Tagore had such a castigation at the close of the last century. If the plan succeeded well then, there is no reason why it should not answer better now. It is the most effectual way of putting down "Babu insolence" of which some of our English fellow-citizens complain so much. Of course care should be taken to exclude all Darkies from the Municipal Board, but that could be easily effected. In the clause defining the qualification necessary for a Commissioner birth and colour should be gently hinted at. This is necessary for another reason. The newly passed Municipal law, the favoured of Lord Dufferin and Sir Stewart Bayley, provides for Dry Monopole and real turtle or its mock representation conger eel at Municipal cost for our city-fathers, and it would be awkward if Darkies should, on the strength of their Commissionership, claim admission to the festive board. The very idea of it is sickening.

As to the spirit in which requests under these heads would be received at head-quarters we entertain no apprehension. It is not at all likely that put forward and pressed on in a regular form they would be viewed in an unkindly spirit. Lord Dufferin is fond of giving titles, official and personal. He knows it is the cheapest way of winning popular favor. And at the time of his retirement from this country he would not refuse the requests if he be properly got at. The legislative mill is always at work, soldering and tinkering, and a section or two may be hammered into shape at a single sitting. The rest may be done at a sitting of the Executive Council in less than no time. And for the gratification of the people whom it has ever been his utmost aim to please he cannot give a denial. And while at it, it may not be out of place to throw the hint that the opportunity might be taken to extend the favor to Calcutta and Madras. Calcutta, we confess, has no pretension to the dignity of *Urbs prima in Indis*, but it is the metropolis of the Empire, and should not be reduced to a lower grade than a provincial town which is now about to be abandoned for its rival Puna. For the honor of the British Indian Empire and the joy of the Ditchers our Municipal magnate should not be less than a Lord with a scarlet velvet mantle set off with three-inch-broad gold lace on his august but not very portly person and having two pages behind carrying his train and two heralds before flaring his banner and blaring forth :

> Great city, all thy banners wave,
> Proud of all thy civic glory.

The idea tickles us to parody Cowper and exclaim :

> "Now let us sing Long live the king,
> And Chairman, long live he;
> And when he doth stride with his toy
> May I be there to see ?"

The sight of such a personage with the powers of castigation at his sweet will would realize the Millennium which the Defence Association and the Health Society so earnestly desiderate.

HOW ENGLAND GOVERNS INDIA.

Mr. Charles Bradlaugh M. P. who, with the permission of his constituents, has so kindly undertaken the task of bringing the grievances of the people of India to the notice of the House of Commons, is losing no opportunity to make the British public acquainted with the actual state of things existing in this country. He recently delivered an interesting lecture on "How England governs India." We are glad to find that Mr. Bradlaugh does not intend to deal with this country rashly, as a Radical. He began his lecture under notice by explaining that if he proposed to extend the democratic vote and representation of Great Britain to India, he would be laying himself open to a charge of being premature and romantic. The importance of this explanation cannot be over-rated. The opponents of the National Congress movement are trying to make the British public believe that the real object of that movement is the introduction of democracy into India. The fact that Mr. Charles Bradlaugh has been authorized by his constituents to bring the proposals of the Congress before Parliament, would have lent weight to the objection raised by Sir Syed Ahmed and Co. But Mr. Bradlaugh has wisely availed himself of the earliest opportunity to scout the notion that he proposed to extend the democratic vote and the representation of Great Britain to India. He pointed out that although there are parts of India where the Natives would exercise the vote as intelligently as the electors of the United Kingdom did, it cannot be denied that there are millions of the Indian population who are no more fit for Self-Government than any other people would be who had been governed by despotism through a series of generations. This shows clearly that Mr. Bradlaugh thoroughly understands his position with regard to India. He also repeated the assurance that he would not deal with India as a party question. We are delighted to see that he is strongly of opinion that the man who tried to make the Indian question a purely party question would be the worst enemy of the Natives of India. He said :—"India ought to be governed by notions of humanity, which should be common to all parties, and not by governors who would be changed with each change of party Government in England." The existing system under which the Indian Minister is changed with every change of Government in England, is a serious misfortune to the people of this country. It would be a great thing if this system were abolished, and the fittest man placed in charge of the India Office, irrespective of party considerations.

In order to make the British public realize the immense responsibilities they have imposed upon themselves by undertaking the Government of India, Mr. Bradlaugh told them that in India there are over 200 millions of people directly under British rule, and that in addition there are about 54 millions who are nominally still under the rule of their own Princes guided and controlled by English Residents accredited to their Courts as representatives of the Paramount Power. Mr. Bradlaugh declared that he would deal with the people who are directly under British rule, and went on to say :—"What is their state ? He submitted it was one of poverty so shockingly miserable that it was a wonder to all Englishmen that they could or would endure it. Those people were at the best of times in such a state that Sir William Hunter in his book on India—which was probably the last book existing on the subject—said that out of those two hundred millions there were constantly about forty millions on the very verge of starvation. As to the ordinary condition of the population, Mr. Bradlaugh quoted Mr. Robertson, the agricultural reporter to the Government of Madras, who in his report said that in the best seasons the gross income of a Native agricultural labourer and his family does not exceed 3 pence per day. Sir Evelyn Baring, who for a time was Finance Minister of India, described the average wealth per year of the population of India at 27 rupees—a rupee might be reckoned at 1*s.* 8*d.* In this country [England] the average wealth was some thing like £35 a year. And the result in actual life was something terrible. Taking the years 1860 to 1878 he found in that time there were 16 famines in India, and in these famines there died over 12 million persons. They might ask, are you intending to connect these famines with the Government of India in the past ? Not entirely : but one case, that of the famine in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh in which 1,265,000 persons died, was almost entirely caused by misgovernment. Extra taxes had been put on, and although the official collectors warned the authorities that if the collection was enforced, a famine must result, yet the Indian Government refused to delay the collection." All this is alas ! only too true. Not only had the collectors but Sir George Couper himself, the then Lieutenant-Governor, had assured the Government of India that the exaction of the revenue demand in the face of the total failure of crops would ruin the mass of revenue-payers ; but no heed was given to these representations and the collection of the *kists* went on as if nothing abnormal had happened. The history of the famine of 1877-78, which was grossly mismanaged throughout, is a standing disgrace to the Government of India, and it is notorious that the inhuman policy which was adopted on the occasion was due to the mischievous influence which Sir John Strachey had gained over Lord Lytton.

In the concluding part of his lecture Mr. Bradlaugh spoke of the three National Congresses held in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. On this subject, he did not, however, say anything new. He urged that the Government of India is practically irresponsible, and strongly condemned the present constitution of the Legislative Councils in this country. Well did Mr. Bradlaugh say that British rule has given India peace and security, and on the whole has been better in its results and direction than any former rule. Our countrymen are deeply grateful to England for the inestimable blessings which she has conferred upon them. They feel that the English are the best foreign rulers they can possibly have, and that they have every thing to lose and nothing to gain by a change of masters. But although England has achieved a great deal for the people of India, it cannot be denied that much still remains to be done before her noble mission in this country can be said to be fulfilled. Mr. Bradlaugh thus concluded his lecture : "I plead, then, for people five thousand miles away. I plead not to Tories, not to Liberals, not to Radicals, but I plead to English people for their fellow-subjects in India. I have taken up this matter in England : I never touch a subject and turn back. I speak at present with the weight of public opinion against me, but it is not the first time. I will speak, relying on the justice of my cause, till I win once more as I have always done." We hope very earnestly that the noble English nation will listen to the pleadings of Mr. Bradlaugh on behalf of the unrepresented and dumb millions of this country, and come forward to redress their grievances.

"THE POWER OF LIVING."

The *Englishman*, returning in a recent issue to the subject of the power of living, which the late Mathew Arnold considered to be one of the essential elements of civilization, says :—"and yet the *Hindoo Patriot*, on behalf of his brethren, repudiates all desire for reformation in this direction, and is angry because we continually insist that a large educated class, which refuses to engage in any of the pursuits which increase the productiveness of a country, is very largely a useless commodity." We are not aware that we ever repudiated all desire for reformation in this matter ; neither do we recollect that we ever got angry with our contemporary for insisting on the necessity of our educated countrymen taking to those pursuits which increase the productiveness of our country. We assure our contemporary that we are of the same opinion with him. We think it an unhealthy sign that most of our educated young men are becoming lawyers, teachers and clerks. We should like a fair proportion of them to take to the practices, trades and professions. What we did say was that our national character was moulded by the habitudes of our ancestors. Our ancestors were a nation of philosophers and religious devotees. They indulged themselves in airy speculation and disregarded the things of this world. They thought that the mind and the soul were the most important of all things, and that the body was of little or no consequence—indeed it was the root of all evil. Hence they greatly appreciated the culture of the mind and of the soul, and neglected the care of the body and of every thing that contributes to its comfort. It was in consequence of this that though they made great progress in the higher elements of civilization, namely, in the power of the intellect and the power of conduct, they made little advance in the power of living. In fact they despised the power of living. They did not care where they lived or what they ate and drank. The old *Munis* and *Rishis* lived in huts constructed of branches of trees, and ate only the fruits of the earth. We do not mean to say that all were *Munis* and *Rishis* ; but their spirit exerted a powerful influence on the general community. It is on this account that the higher classes of the Hindus are averse to practical pur-

suits. Not only in India but in ancient Greece and Rome very little attention was paid to the art of living. In the former country, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle, and the several schools which derived their origin from them, busied themselves more with cultivating the mind and the heart than with developing the resources of their country, and in the latter country, though the Romans were less cultured than the Greeks, they paid greater regard to arms and Government than to the development of the material resources of their vast empire. And the same tendency prevailed in the mediæval ages of Europe. It was not till the time of Bacon, as Macaulay has fully shown, that men began to apply science to the practical arts of life. It was the rise of the Inductive Philosophy which gave an impetus to the progress of Physical Science, and with the rise of Physical Science may be dated the commencement of the application of knowledge to the art of making life comfortable. It was not till nearly twenty centuries had rolled away from the time of Aristotle that the ingenuous youth of Europe began to apply knowledge to make life comfortable; and our contemporary the *Englishman* need not therefore be surprised if the young men of Calcutta are now doing what the Athenian youth did in the days of Socrates and Plato, namely, studying dialectics, rhetoric and metaphysics. We agree, however, with our contemporary in thinking that it is now time for the youth of India to turn their attention to the bread-and-butter sciences. We are of opinion that both the bread-and-butter sciences and the humanizing sciences should make progress hand in hand. To pursue the former to the utter exclusion of the latter, would end in crass materialism; to pursue only the latter to the exclusion of the former would end in unsubstantial philosophism. A mixture of both is necessary. Man is a compound being, he has a body, an intellect and a heart or soul. Cultivation of each of these three component parts is necessary to the full development of the complete man. Our contemporary puts too much stress on the material part, and we perhaps have gone to the other extreme, and put too much stress on the immaterial part. We have hitherto chosen the better part, and too much neglected the inferior part. But true wisdom would dictate to us that we should neglect neither part. We should make the best of both worlds. Our contemporary will thus see that, so far from being angry with him, we are at one with him. We think it is time that our young men should apply their knowledge to the practical purposes of life. We would not discourage them from becoming graduates of the University, for we look upon a good education as an invaluable possession. What though it does not help in producing bread and butter? It liberalizes the mind, and places man at a greater distance than before from the brute creation. But after graduating in the University, they need not all become pleaders, and clerks and teachers. They should take to the industrial arts, to practical engineering, to house-building, to carpentry, to watch-making, to farming and the like. A carpenter who is a B. A., need not be ashamed of his calling; and a carpenter who is a B. A. will assuredly be a better carpenter than an illiterate one; at any rate, he is none the worse for his University degree. Our contemporary must acknowledge that a beginning has been already made in this direction. One Native gentleman, brought up in the Agricultural College at Cirencester, has got charge, we believe, of a farm in the Burdwan district; another is engaged in the breeding of silk-worms; and a third who has just come out will be employed in preserving cattle from destruction. This is the beginning of the end. When our B. As and M. As see that young men educated in England are applying their knowledge to the practical purposes of life they will catch the contagion of their example, and give an equally practical direction to their knowledge. Some young men have already taken to the railways, and become engine-drivers and guards. But what is wanted is, that our educated young men should devote themselves to developing the agricultural and mineral resources of the country, and to the improvement of those arts which make life comfortable. Technical education must be begun in right earnest. We do not mean technical education of a higher sort, but that sort of technical education by means of which we can obtain skilled carpenters, builders, farmers, watchmakers, thatchers and cultivators. We want elegant houses for the rich, neat cottages for the poor, well-made roads, clean ditches, and artistic gardens—for all these purposes intelligent Native skilled workmen are required. We can get none of the higher comforts and elegances of life unless the intelligence of our youth is applied to the practical concerns of life. We have seen an upcountry Marwari, who was surrounded by bags of Rupees, leaning against a pillow begrimmed with dirt and swarming with vermin. Certainly that man does not know how to live. We admit that the Indian has many lessons to learn from the European on the art of living.

FEVER PREVALENCE IN UPPER INDIA.

SOME little while ago we noticed in these columns a remarkable lecture on "The Evils of Canal Irrigation and their Remedy," which Mr. T. H. Thorton, lately a Judge of the Lahore Chief Court, delivered before the Society of Arts. Mr. Thornton pointed out that Canal Irrigation had caused not only an extensive impoverishment of soil and deterioration of produce in Upper India, but that it had also extended and intensified malaria to the serious detriment of the health and physique of the people. The twentieth annual report of the Sanitary Commissioner of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh for 1887 furnishes additional proof, if further proof were needed, of the truth of Mr. T. H. Thornton's statements. Dr. Richardson brings to prominent relief the fact that by far the greater part of mortality of the past year as of previous years was caused by fever. Of a total provincial death ratio of 35·86 per 1,000 of population, no less than 25·76 was due to fever. During no previous year, for which reliable death statistics are available, has the mortality from cholera in the United Provinces been half so great as during 1887. And yet that mortality sinks into insignificance when compared with that caused by fever. Dr. Richardson observes:—"Epidemics of cholera or small-pox, such as those which destroyed 4·5 per 1,000 of the population during each of the years 1887 and 1884, attract much more notice than ever-present fever; but they recur only at intervals and their effects are insignificant compared with those of fever. * * *. The number of deaths directly caused by fever, although enormous, gives an altogether inadequate idea of its ruinous effects. For every person who dies as the direct consequence of it, numbers are reduced by it to a condition of helpless misery. Judged of either by the mortality it causes or by the prolonged suffering and abject poverty to which it gives rise, fever in these provinces excels in importance all the other diseases combined." We observe that the three divisions of Meerut, Allahabad and Agra, show somewhat increased ratios of deaths from fever during 1887 as compared with the previous year. In the case of the Meerut Division the mean ratio of its districts was 30·4 in 1886 and 33·0 in 1887. Both ratios are much above the provincial ratio. The increase in the Allahabad and Agra Divisions amounted to 2·5 in the former and to 1 in the latter over their mean ratios in 1886. Dr. Richardson gives a list of the twelve districts suffered most from fever during the past year, and the mean ratio for these districts varied from 31·18 in Muttra to 49·47 in the Tarai. Now, 8 out of these 12 districts are irrigated by canals. If the Tarai, the conditions of which are exceptional, is excluded, Moradabad, Budaon and Philibhit in Rohilkhund are the only districts among the 12, which are not irrigated by canals. It is worthy of note that the Jhansi Division is the only part of the Province in which a very marked increase of fever mortality took place during 1887; and we must not forget that into this Division canals have been lately introduced. Dr. Richardson also gives a similar list of the 12 districts which suffered least from fever during the past year. From this list the salubrious hill districts of Kumaon and Gurhwal have been kept out as exceptional. A comparison of the two lists shows that whilst in the case of the districts which suffered most from fever, all except four are within the canal-irrigated area, in the case of those which suffered least, not one lies within that area. Then, Dr. Richardson gives a list of the 20 towns which recorded the highest death-rates from fever in 1887. It must be remembered that all these towns except one lie in canal-irrigated districts; and that the exception stands near an extensive *jhil*. The Sanitary Commissioner gives a similar list of the 20 towns which suffered least from fever during 1887. Excepting Etawah not one of these towns lies in a canal-irrigated district. It will thus be seen that of the 12 districts with the highest fever mortality, 8 are canal-irrigated; and that of the 12 districts of lowest fever mortality not one is canal-irrigated. Of the 20 towns of highest fever mortality 19 lie in canal-irrigated districts; whilst of the 20 towns of lowest fever mortality only one belongs to a canal-irrigated district.

These facts and figures which speak more eloquently than volumes of declamation would, lend a peculiar interest and value to a paper on "The injurious effects of Canal-Irrigation on the health of the population of the Punjab and their remedy," which Dr. Bellew, late Sanitary Commissioner of that Province, recently read before the Society of Arts. Dr. Bellew pointed out that the death statistics of the Punjab show a generally higher death-rate in the canal-irrigated districts than in the districts not so irrigated. He goes farther and holds that the injurious effects of canal-irrigation upon the health of the people are not confined to the actual number of deaths caused by fever, but that they are also traceable in the physical deterioration of the rising generation. Dr. Bellew says:—"For several years past it has been a matter of comment amongst the intelligent classes in the Punjab that, despite all the elaborate machinery of the Government of India in the medical and sanitary departments, and their many costly measures for the improvement of the material prosperity of the country and of the welfare of the inhabitants, there has taken place a steadily increasing deterioration in the health standard and manly spirit of the people. I have frequently heard it said by old men of experience and intelligence—and the truth of their statements is to a large extent borne out by the results of my own observation in the country—that formerly they were little troubled by sickness and that epidemic visitations of cholera and fever were matters of rare occurrence, and at long intervals; whereas now they are never free from sickness of one sort or another, whilst epidemic visitations of pestilential and death-dealing disease are now matters of almost annually recurring frequency in some parts or other of the Province." Dr. Bellew does not hesitate to say that there is good ground to accept the popular notions above referred to as being based upon a foundation of truth; and that both sickness and mortality have increased rather than diminished under British rule. He holds that the climate of the country has been changed for the worse by the effects of canal-irrigation; and that as the poorer classes of the people cannot afford to clothe themselves sufficiently, they fall sick and die. Dr. Bellew observes:—"The great systems of canal-irrigation which have now overspread the larger portion of the area of the Province, from the Swat Canal in the North-Western Trans-Indus Frontier, to the West Jumna Canal, in its South-Eastern border—whatever may be the benefits they have conferred upon the country—have undoubtedly produced some very serious evils; not the least of which is a prominently marked deterioration in the salubrity of the climate of the province generally. Formerly, the climate of the Punjab was characterised as hot, dry and healthy. It is now on all hands observed to be increasingly chilly, damp and unhealthy. * * * Whilst in many extensive areas the humidity of the air is intensified by evaporation from the surface soil, which is either flooded from the canals for purposes of irrigation, or is water-logged by obstructed drainage, or is saturated with subsoil moisture by percolation. The consequence of this abnormal humidity of the air is, that the people in these tracts are exposed to all the unwholesome influences of a damp climate, under alternating seasons of high temperature and cold, of which they previously had no experience, and to

the hygienic requirements of which they have not yet learned to adapt themselves. Moreover, it is found not unfrequently that some areas—not themselves traversed by canals, but lying adjacent to canal-irrigated tracts—become injuriously affected by moisture wafted over them from such sources." Dr. Bellew also shows that the extension of railways has caused obstruction to the natural drainage of the country in many parts by their embankments, and thereby greatly intensified the injurious effects of the altered climate of the Province upon the health of the people. Dr. Bellew is of opinion that these effects can be counteracted by suitable clothing, wholesome food and efficient housing. But such remedies, we need hardly state, are beyond the means of the mass of the people, who find it an extremely difficult task to keep their body and soul together. To tell the masses that they should provide themselves with sufficient clothing, wholesome food and comfortable house-accommodation is to give them utterly impracticable advice which no sensible man would do. Dr. Richardson's views, however, are not utopian like those of Dr. Bellew. He thus concludes his remarks on fever in the report above mentioned: 'All of these statistics point in the same direction to the intimate relation between malarial fever and excess of moisture in the soil. As the cause of fever is the same in these provinces as elsewhere, so likewise is the remedy. Removal of the excess of moisture in the soil by efficient drainage will diminish if it will not entirely prevent it. All other remedies are of comparatively little avail." In the matter of drainage the Government has already done some thing; but much more still remains to be done in the same direction. In the Madras Presidency the canal areas, Sir Arthur Cotton tells us, are perfectly drained. No one can deny the existence of the evils which Dr. Bellew has so graphically described, and it behoves the Government to adopt prompt and effectual measures to remedy them.

THE ACT SUPPLEMENTARY TO THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL CONSOLIDATION ACT.

Fiat Justitia, ruat cœlum is a hackneyed copy-book maxim favored of school-boys and desperadoes. Some old fashioned Puritans also patronise it; but in the political business of the world it can seldom be thought of. Governors and men in power cannot always afford to say, "Let justice be done though heaven should fall." They cannot afford fairplay to absolute justice even at much smaller risk. It would amount to rank folly to do so, in cases in which influential persons are concerned. Take, for instance, the new Municipal Consolidation Act for the town of Calcutta. It is on the face of it *ultra vires*. No amount of jesuitry can justify it; and we have shown this to demonstration on more than one occasion. The *Pioneer* and the *Englishman*, the faithful worshippers of the authorities that be, tried hard by no end of sophistry to take the reason of the public prisoner, but failed. The obvious course was that the Bill should be vetoed; but the credit of many men of influence was connected with it, and therefore the obvious plain course could not be followed.

The *amour propre* of such men as Sir Steuart Bayley, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, of Sir Charles Paul, the Advocate General, of Sir Henry Harrison, a barrister-at-law and the Municipal Chairman, of Mr. Reynolds, the sage of the Civil Service, was concerned, and the Supreme Government funked at the idea of strict justice, though there was no fear that heaven would fall. Lord Dufferin, if left to himself, would doubtless scorn anything that is not straightforward, but the weight of the Service majority was against him, and he yielded so far as to adopt a tortuous course. There was no question that the law was *ultra vires*, and under no circumstances it could be allowed to remain unamended; it was necessary to amend it in the regular way by vetoing the Bill and asking the subordinate Council to bring in a new Bill and pass it in regular form. There was, however, the hitch about the *amour propre*, and for its sake we have the awkward scene of an Act passed now by the higher Council for the amendment of what would be law in April 1889 *i. e.* six months hence. The amending Act being followed immediately after approving or giving assent to the faulty law is likewise a stultifying scene; it amounts to declaring openly with every formality that the Bill as passed by the Bengal Council was good and proper, and yet in another department to pass a law which legalises the faulty Bill. There would have been reason for this awkward course had it been shown that there was some administrative necessity for it. But nothing can be said of the kind. The law is faulty, but it won't be in operation,—won't even have the force of law, until six months from this date, and at the same time the Bengal Council would be in session, and could pass any revised Bill in that time and do the thing in regular course. But, as we have said, the feeling of *amour propre* was in the way. The authorities of the Provincial Council, in a case in which all the official and European members were on one side and a majority of the native members on the other, could not but abhor the idea of their handy-work—one specially designed for the benefit of their countrymen—being set aside by the higher authorities. True, the same majority which carried it once would have again carried it safe through the Council; but the *amour propre* once hurt could not be cured. The fact would always remain, that the great legal luminaries of official Bengal had erred in the interpretation of law. True, the regular course is what *mutates mutandis* is followed in every Appellate Court; the High Court never hesitates to set aside a decision of a District Judge when it thinks it wrong, and the *amour propre* of the District Judge remains intact; but the *amour propre* of certain people is preternaturally fragile. Hence it is that care has been taken in the language of the amending Act never to hint at any irregularity. It seems an interpretation clause, a direction to expound the Municipal Consolidation Act so as to prevent any hitch by a too independent Judge of the High Court by puting on other than the Bengal Office spectacles, when adjudicating a municipal case under the Act. A fiasco of this kind occurred when the Wellington Square Tank was in dispute, and the orders of Justice Phear had to be set aside by an Act passed at one sitting. The Judge then declared the whole proceedings of Government in the case to be "a solemn farce." The new law will prevent the acting of such a farce in the present case.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

WE are officially informed that Her Majesty the Queen Empress of India has been pleased to confer upon his Excellency the Viceroy the honor of a Marquisate and an Earldom with the title of Marquis of Dufferin and Ava and Earl of Ava in the peerage of the United Kingdom which latter titles His Excellency has assumed by Her Majesty's express command.

WE are glad to learn that the Government of India has given its assent to the proposal, made in the Report of the Public Service Commission, that the present age-limit of the candidates for the Covenanted Civil Service should be raised.

THE divergence of views, which existed among the members of the Currency Commission, has been settled, and the Report is expected to appear shortly. It is believed that it favors bi-metallism.

RUSSIA is placing troops along the Austrian frontier in response to similar movements of troops on the Austrian side.

WE are glad to learn that the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge have adopted Sir William Hunter's "Indian Empire" for the school of Oriental studies, and that the University of Oxford has appointed Sir William to be senior Examiner for Honours in the school.

THE *Times* claims that Mr. Parnell's Scotch action should be tried in England.

THE fight at Tashkurgan has ended in Ishak Khan's defeat, and his forces have been dispersed. Gholam Hyder, the Amir's General, was in desperate straits before the fight, but happily he has been able to beat the enemy completely. Had Gholam Hyder suffered defeat the result would have been serious. The Amir's position will be greatly strengthened by the victory he has gained.

TELEGRAPHIC news received from Peshawar is to the effect that the Amir finds it necessary to go to Turkistan to arrange for the government of the province. The proposed mission to Kabul, therefore, will not start.

THE Raja of Sikkim is now at Gantok, and it is expected that our relations with him will be placed on a satisfactory basis. It is not likely, however, that the Sikkim Field force will be broken up for some time yet. The Lamas have got a lesson from General Graham which they are not likely soon to forget. They should never again think of defying the British Lion. It is well known that the aim of the Indian Government is not to pursue an aggressive policy towards Lhassa, but to secure Sikkim against all outside influence. We are glad to hear that the cordiality between the Indian and Chinese Governments is as great as ever. When China, the Suzerain Power, is acting in concert with our Government every hope may reasonably be entertained of bringing the Tibetans to terms. The political negotiations which are now being carried on are sure to prevent any further bloodshed. Since the above was written we are informed that orders have been issued to provision the whole of the Sikkim Field Force up to November 15, after which date a considerable reduction will probably be made in the strength of General Graham's Brigade.

A PORTION of the Russian press are in favour of an understanding being arrived at between Russia and England, with the object of detaching the latter from the Central Powers.

WE deeply regret to record the death of Babu Chandra Kumar Roy, the public-spirited Zemindar of Narail. It was mainly to his exertions that the Victoria College of Narail owed its existence, and the local Charitable Dispensary found in him a warm supporter. His enlightened views on public questions commanded respect, and his amiable manners endeared him to all who came into contact with him. His death is mourned by a large circle of friends, relatives and dependants.

WE have received a letter from Dewan Ranavijaya Singh, Bahadur, an influential Taluqdar of Oudh, in which he says:—

"Observing your newspaper to be a true well-wisher of India and engaged in the noble cause of the National Congress, I do not hesitate to ask you for the publication of my humble note, which, I hope, will throw some light on the opinions of the Taluqdars of Oudh on the Congress movement."

We are thankful to him for this letter, but we regret we cannot print his letter *in extenso* without further communication with him. It involves questions of law which require to be elucidated. The substance of the letter is that there are two parties in the Taluqdars' Association—some advocating the cause of the National Congress, while others siding with Sir Ahmed Khan, of Aligarh. The latter would appear to be the more obstreperous; but the weight of age, wisdom and influence abides with the former. In any case the attitude of the Taluqdars, even if all of them should join in protesting against the Congress, would not materially retard the cause of progress.

THE *Englishman* says:—"It is now believed that Sir Lepel Griffin will not return to India. It is at all events very unlikely that he will go to Hyderabad as Resident." We think very differently. We fancy that so long as fat pay and power are available here he will not abandon

India. For some time the threat was held forth that Sir Lepel Griffin and Mr. Beames would abandon us for our failure to appreciate their merits. Mr. Beames, notwithstanding his official degradation, still sticks to this country, and Sir Lepel will in due course contradict the guess of the *Englishman*. The fact is, though England is excessively rich, she pays her officials on a scale the very reverse of which we are forced to do for our European officials, and it accounts for many puzzles. Mr. Munro in Bengal was a divisional Commissioner on Rs. 3,000 a month; in London he had to content himself with the rank of a detective officer on the very modest pay.

THE Provincial Conference, as we announced in a recent issue, will be held at the British Indian Association rooms, on the 25th, 26th, and 27th instant. Among others the following subjects will be discussed:

(1) The Constitution of the National Congress.
(2) The determination of the programme that should be laid before the National Congress.
(3) Grievances of the Assam coolies.
(4) Khas Mehals.
(5) Appointments to the Executive Service.
(6) The Police.
(7) Technical Education.
(8) Local Self-Government.
(9) The Abkari question.
(10) The Secret Police Circular.
(12) Embankments.
(13) Irrigation.

LORD REAY has committed the unpardonable crime of appointing a Deputy Collector as a member of the Bombay Legislative Council. There is no question of the Deputy Collector being properly qualified for the work with which he is entrusted, but then he is 'subordinate to the Collector of his District, and is bound to obey his order.' The Deputy Collector, while in Council, will frame laws which the Collector will have to administer. How can a superior officer administer laws framed by a subordinate officer? This is a question which the Anglo-Indian community of Bombay are unable to satisfactorily answer, and we are told that great indignation has been expressed at the appointment. An Anglo-Indian contemporary sagely remarks that Lord Reay's action "is considered not only injurious to the interests of the service, but apt to lower the dignity of the Council in the eyes of the public." Our contemporary forgets that the experiment has been tried in Bengal, and was found to work well, and it neither injured the 'interests of the service,' nor 'lowered the dignity of the Council in the eyes of the public.' One of our Deputy Collectors is now a member of the Viceregal Council. What do the Anglo Indian community of Bombay say to this?

THE Black mountain tribes are still giving trouble, and the Hazara field force has not yet been able to finish its work. Maidan and other villages have been totally destroyed, and yet the tribes have not sent in their submission. The special correspondent of the *Englishman* says:—"There is nothing that disheartens the Pathans so much as a thorough opening up of their country, as they feel their only chance of partial success is in our ignorance of the district we have to operate in. General McQueen states that with all his great experience he never saw more difficult country to work over than that over which the three first columns have been operating. As matters now stand there is a good chance of the Force having done its programme and being broken up by the 1st of November, if not sooner." We, however, see no chance of the Force being broken up so soon.

THE Investiture ceremony at Simla was performed with great *eclat* on the 14th instant. The ceremony took place in the Ball Room of the Viceregal Lodge. The Raja of Sirmur was invested with the honorable insignia of the Star of India, of which most Exalted Order Her Majesty was graciously pleased to appoint him to be a Knight Grand Commander. The next gentleman to be decorated was the Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab. Mr. Westland and Mr. McDonnell were decorated as Companions. After the "Star" ceremony was over, Nawab Nawazish Ali Khan, Sir Guildford Molesworth, Sir Frederic Hogg, and Sardar Atar Singh were decorated as Knights Commander, and Mr. A. J. Lawrence and Mr. H. Frewin, were decorated as Companions of the Order of the Indian Empire.

THE Mysore Exhibition was opened by the Maharaja of Mysore on the 15th instant. Mr. Ricketts presented an address to His Highness on behalf of the Exhibition Committee. The Dewan in replying by command of His Highness, said: "I may perhaps say here that it is my intention to hold similar Exhibitions from time to time in various parts of the province, and thereby stimulate the general advancement of agricultural industry, and the fine arts, and in this way, promote the general welfare of my subjects in all parts of the province." This Exhibition is the first of the kind ever held in the province.

AT the meeting of the Supreme Legislative Council on Thursday last the Hon. Mr. Scoble introduced the Bill to amend the law relating to fraudulent marks on merchandise. In his speech on the subject Mr. Scoble said: "The same reasons which led to the passing of the Merchandise Marks Act in England apply to this country. The Bill has been framed upon the opinions of the recognised organs of the commercial classes in India. The Chambers of Commerce of Madras, Bombay and Bengal, the Bombay Millowners' Association, the Calcutta Trades' Association, and the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, have all expressed their approval of fresh legislation on the subject of fraudulent marks on merchandise in India. Similar views are held by the mercantile community in England who are interested in the Indian trade." Mr. Scoble said that it had been clearly established that false marking of goods, both of articles imported and those locally manufactured, was very widely prevalent in this country. The present enactments were insufficient to prevent the evils complained of. The Bill now introduced proposes to create a new offence, namely, that of applying any false descriptions to goods whereby purchasers may be deceived. In dealing with this subject the Bill proposes to amend certain sections of the Penal Code, and to extend the provisions of the Sea Customs Act.

THE Government Resolution on Mr. Westmacott's Report on the Outstill system has been published. Our readers will remember that in November 1887 the Lieutenant-Governor received from the Secretary to the Indian Association a letter stating that with the introduction of the Outstill System in Hugli and Howrah facilities for obtaining liquor had been increased, that the price of the liquor had been reduced, and that crime, immorality and drunkenness had increased; and that his Honour on receiving this letter deputed Mr. Westmacott to enquire into the truth of these allegations. The present Resolution is a brief review of the conclusions arrived at by Mr. Westmacott.

Under the old distillery system there was less of drinking and intoxication, but as the Government revenue suffered it had to be given up for some other system more paying, and the outstill system was introduced. It has been shown that misery and drunkenness have considerably increased amongst the people of Hugli and Howrah with the introduction of the outstill system. The Secretary of State has now requested that the comparative merits of the outstill and other systems may be carefully examined in their application to the excise administration in Bengal; and His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor is anxious to remedy all the defects in the working of the outstill system in Hugli and Howrah that have been brought to light by Mr. Westmacott's enquiries.

It is admitted that most of the safeguards recommended by the Excise Commission are conspicuous by their absence in Hugli and Howrah. The chief complaint of the people of those districts has been about the prominent sites occupied by the outstills. They are situated on the public roads, in the middle of villages, or close to schools, or at the junction of great lines of communication. We are glad that the Lieutenant-Governor is thoroughly convinced of the necessity for removing them from these objectionable sites. The Lieutenant-Governor also sees the urgency of adopting some stringent measures whereby the distiller may be prevented from producing liquor *ad libitum*. Mr. Westmacott admits that owing to the lowering of the price of liquor there has been an increase of consumption, and he also admits that the liquor now manufactured is stronger than before, yet by some strange process of ratiocination he comes to the conclusion that there has been neither increase in drunkenness nor in the number of those who drink. He attempts to support his opinion by drawing a subtle distinction between 'drunkenness' and 'drinking to moderation.' Mr. Westmacott forgets the fact that in India there is no real distinction between drinking and drunkenness. In the hot climate of India, with the physique and mode of life of its people, the very smell of wine is injurious, and that is the reason why so much odium is attached to drinking, and why, in ninety cases out of a hundred it is associated with all that is filthy and ignoble in life. In cold climates brandy and water is one of the necessaries of life, whereas here it is but a vicious luxury. We are glad to have Mr. Westmacott's assurance that habits of drinking have not spread amongst women, school-boys, persons of the higher classes or land-holding peasants. He makes amongst others a suggestion that the excise and detective establishments should be placed under the regular Police Administration of the district and the Lieutenant-Governor has called the Board's attention to its consideration. The Resolution concludes with saying that 'the Lieutenant-Governor is not at present prepared to pronounce finally upon the system or systems to be adopted in Bengal; but with the removal of outstills from objectionable sites, a real and practical limitation in the supply of liquor, an increase in its cost by the imposition of higher rates of fees, and an increase in the minimum price to be charged, it may confidently be hoped that the grounds of complaint, which have been most reasonably put forward in Hugli and Howrah, will cease to exist. Mr. Westmacott's enquiry, however, indicates distinctly, in the interests both of public morality and of the State revenue, the need of examining the administration of the outstill system in other districts in the light of the conclusions which he has established. He remarks:—"Consumption has been allowed to increase, while excise revenue has been sacrificed by the policy of dealing with each district separately, and by permitting unnecessary differences in the incidence of duty on liquor in adjoining tracts." The whole scope of his report tends to support the opinion, which is held by many authorities, that the administration of Excise in Bengal should, as in other provinces, be placed in charge of a special officer, whose duty would be to visit every district, and examine and direct the operations of the department in personal communication with the local officers. This question is under reference to the Government of India in connection with Mr. Buckland's report of his enquiry in Madras and Bombay. Meanwhile Mr. Westmacott, on being relieved of his present appointment of Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, will be placed on special duty under the Board of Revenue, and charged with the supervision of the approaching Excise settlements.'

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Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—*October* 17, 1888.

GENERAL.—The services of Mr. H. Luson, Officiating Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector, are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Public Works Department of this Government, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved of his present appointment as Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Gya.

Mr. E. M. Lewis, Superintendent, Government Printing, Bengal, is allowed leave for nine days, under section 72, chapter V of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 22nd instant.

Mr. W. Ross, Deputy Superintendent of the Presidency Jail Press, is appointed to act as Superintendent of Government Printing, Bengal, in addition to his own duties, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. E. M. Lewis.

Babu Denno Nath Mukerji, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Shahabad, is allowed leave for three weeks, under section 72 of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 21st instant.

Mr. H. G. Cooke, Magistrate and Collector, Purneah, is allowed leave for three weeks, under section 72 of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 22nd Instant.

Mr. C. J. S. Faulder, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Birbhum, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of Purneah, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. H. G. Cooke, or until further orders.

Lieutenant E. B. Farquharson, First Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, is appointed to be an extra Aide-de-Camp on the personal staff of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

Babu Gagan Chunder Das, Temporary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Puri, is transferred to the sudder station of the District of Sarun.

Mr. C. P. Caspersz, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Bhaugulpore, is appointed to act in the first grade of Joint-Magistrate and Deputy-Collectors, with effect from the forenoon of the 29th September 1888.

POLICE.—Mr. F. L. Halliday, Officiating Assistant Superintendent of Police, Barrackpore, 24-Pergunnahs, is allowed leave for one month, under rule 2, section 138 of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from such date as he may avail himself of it.

Mr. R. H. G. Irvine, District Superintendent of Police, Mozufferpore, is allowed leave for one month, under section 72 of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he may avail himself of it.

Mr. J. C. Stack, Assistant Superintendent of Police, in charge of the District Police, Singhbum, is appointed to act as District Superintendent of Police, Singhbum, with effect from the 12th ultimo.

Mr. H. W. Boileu, Assistant Superintendent of Police, is posted to Gya, but will act temporarily as District Superintendent of Police, Julpigori, until relieved by Mr. G. H. P. Livesay.

Mr. H. M. Parish, Assistant Superintendent of Police, on leave is posted to Palamow, and is appointed to have charge of the Police of that District until further orders.

The following acting promotions and reversions are sanctioned in the Police Department :—

With effect from 23rd June 1888, consequent on the departure, on leave, of Mr. St. John Brodrick, Officiating first grade Assistant Superintendent of Police—

Mr. C. C. Plowden, second grade Assistant Superintendent, to act in the first grade.

With effect from the 3rd July 1888, consequent on the return, from privilege leave, of Mr. C. E. Fabre-Tonnerre, Officiating fourth grade District Superintendent—

Mr. I. H. W. D. Clark, Officiating fourth grade District Superintendent, to the fifth grade.

Mr. H. C. Clogstoun, Officiating fifth grade District Superintendent, to the first grade of Assistant Superintendents.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Moulvi Syed Mahomed Nasiruddin, Temporary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Shahabad, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the second class.

Babu Aswini Kumar Bose, Munsiff of Hatya, Noakholly, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class.

Babu Radhica Lal Shome, Sub-Deputy Collector, Bishenpore, Bankura, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the second class.

Advertisements.

NOTICE.

Important sale of landed property at Gya Collectorate to be held on 4th December 1888 and following days; apply for particulars to manager Raj Deo, Gya.

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Bhuansal, Manager, Raj Deo. } *Offg. Collector.*

NOTICE.

1. Sealed tenders will be received by the undersigned for the undermentioned supplies of metal up to 3 P. M. on Monday the 5th November 1888.

Description of Metal.	Quantities of Metal.	Names of Roads.	Date of Commencement of work.	Date of Completion of delivery.	Amount of earnest money to accompany each tender in currency notes.	Deposit money required to be paid by successful tenderer.
Jhama Metal..	132082	Krishnaghur & Buggoola Rd.	10th Nov. 1888.	25th March 1889	Rs. 200	Ten per cent on the total value of work.
Do. ...	62879	Ranaghat and Santipore Rd.	Do.	Do.	Rs. 200	Do.
Do. ...	40000	Krishnaghur & Santipore Rd.	Do.	Do.	Rs. 200	Do.
Do. ...	25000	Krishnaghur & Nuddea Rd.	Do.	Do.	Rs. 100	Do.
Do. ..	72500	Krishengunge & Baromasia Rd.	Do.	Do.	Rs. 200	Do.
Do. ...	35000	Khoksa Railway Station to Khoksa Bazar Rd.	Do.	Do.	Rs. 100	Do.

2. The Jhama Metal for the first two and the last road to be of well moulded and half vetrified Jhama bricks prepared of thoroughly pugged clay to be selected by the undersigned.
3. The price of the metal will be payable on the 1st April 1889.
4. The undersigned does not bind himself to accept the lowest or any tender.
5. For further particulars apply to the office of the undersigned.

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District Engineer.
Nuddea.

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Security of Rs. 1000 each will be required.

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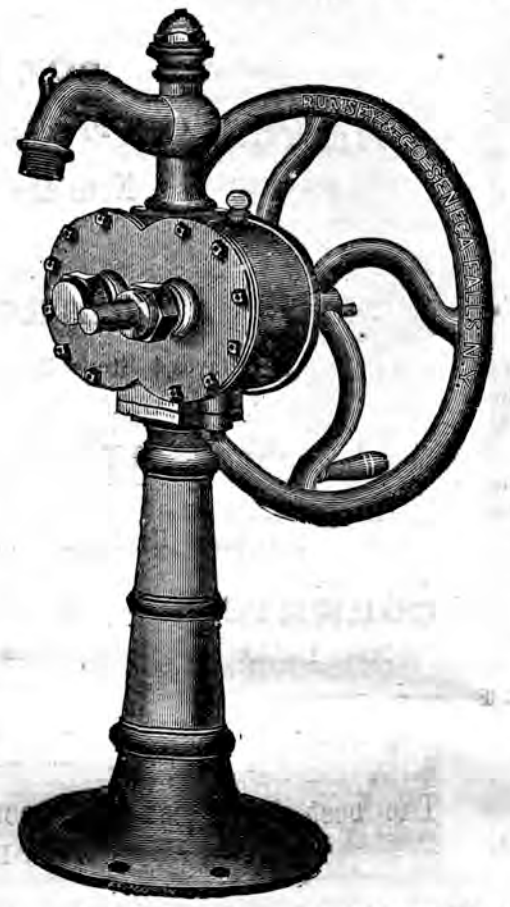

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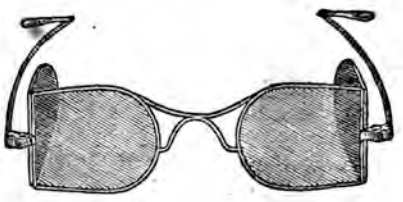

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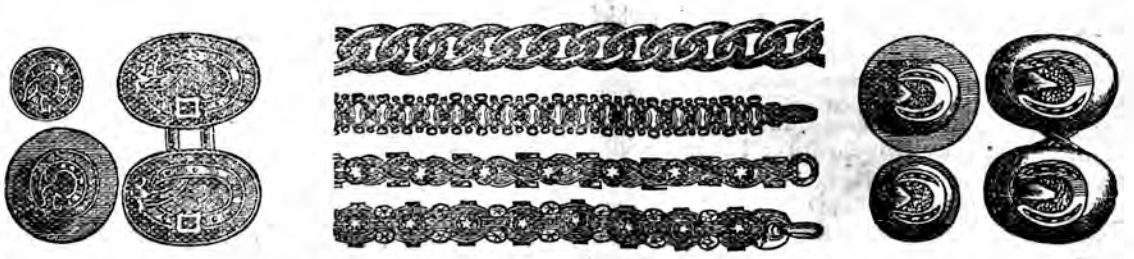

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